

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 RABAT 02033 141453Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----141454Z 071736 /53

O 141437Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1596
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T RABAT 2033

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CG, AO, NI, MO
SUBJECT: NIGERIAN BELIEF THAT USG BEHIND MOROCCAN INTERVENTION

REF LAGOS 4084

1. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE A NON-STARTER TO TRY TO ENLIST MOROCCO IN ROLE OF TRYING TO DISABUSE FMG OF ANY IMPRESSION IT MAY HAVE THAT USG INSTIGATED MOROCCAN TROOP SUPPORT FOR ZAIRE. IN OUR VIEW, UG IS BEST ADVISED TO UNDERTAKE THAT TASK ON ITS OWN BEHALF. MOROCCANS ARE HIGHLY SENSITIVE ON ZAIRE ISSUE AND FEEL STRONGLY THAT THEIR MILITARY INTERVENTION IS BOTH JUST AND NECESSARY. FURTHERMORE, GOM IS CONCERNED THAT USG IS NOT DEMONSTRATING SUFFICIENT FIRMNESS IN COUNTERING SOVIET/CUBAN THREAT IN AFRICA. FOR EXAMPLE, FOREIGN MINISTER LARAKI TELEPHONE ME APRIL 14 TO SAY THAT GOM IS DEEPLY CONCERNED OVER (A) COMMENTS BY AMBASSADOR YOUNG ON APRIL 11 RE CUBA BRINGING STABILITY IN ANGOLA, AND (B) WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS "WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT THAT ZAIRE PROBLEM DOES NOT REPRESENT AN EAST-WEST CONFRONTATION." (WE HAVE SEEN NO REPORT OF SUCH A STATEMENT.) HE ALSO NOTED THAT THESE COMMENTS COUPLED WITH STRONG SOVIET PUBLIC REACTION (MOSCOW 4498) ARE NOT AT ALL HELPFUL TO GOM EFFORTS TO HELP PRESERVE ZAIRE'S

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TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY FROM EXTERNAL AGGRESSION.

2. MOROCCANS CLEARLY WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND AN EFFORT TO USE THEM WITH FMG IN EFFECT TO EMPHASIZE THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THEIR AND OUR POSITIONS. ANOTHER FACTOR IS THAT MOROCCAN-NIGERIAN RELATIONS HAVE IN ANY CASE BEEN SOMEWHAT COOL BECAUSE OF SAHARA ISSUE. WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO JUDGE

NIGERIAN REACTIONS, BUT WONDER WHETHER FMG LIKELY TO BELIEVE
MOROCCANS IF OUR OWN REPEATED, PUBLIC DISAVOWALS OF INVOLVEMENT
ARE NOT ACCEPTED IN LAGOS.
ANDERSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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